

countless lives. His work has helped to clean up toxic sites in communities across his State and our country. It has kept our drinking water clean and made our buildings more energy efficient.

The thing that I personally will always look at FRANK LAUTENBERG for having done is taking care of one of my children. One of my boys was allergic to tobacco smoke. When we would fly across the country, they had those artificial barriers where you could not smoke past a line. But it didn't matter because the smoke went everywhere. On every trip, my boy was miserable; it made him sick. Because of FRANK LAUTENBERG, millions of Americans are now protected from secondhand smoke. He wrote the law banning smoking on airplanes.

In addition to his being such a good friend, I commend and applaud the people of New Jersey for sending this good man to the Senate. He is someone who is deserving of all the accolades being given to him. I am proud to have known him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TESTER). The Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I wish to say briefly that we are incredibly proud in New Jersey that FRANK LAUTENBERG is our Senator. It is not just the number of votes he cast, it is what he has stood up for. Senator LAUTENBERG has been known as standing up for New Jerseyans first, but he has also stood up for the Nation, millions of people, since he passed the ban on smoking on airlines and what he has done with Superfund sites and what he has done on domestic violence abusers, who can no longer possess a gun, which means people are alive today as a result of Senator LAUTENBERG's work in New Jersey and across the Nation. The landmark legislation he has participated in over his career in the Senate is exemplary.

I wanted to join in the tribute because it is not just his number of votes, it is the type of effect he has had on the lives of people in New Jersey and across the country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for his kind remarks and for the leadership he has provided for all of us. I never dreamed I would be here this long. I had 30 years in business before I got to this place.

HARRY REID mentioned twice something about wealth. The wealth I acquired by being in this place—by being able to say to my country that I have had a chance to give back for the wonderfully good fortune that has occurred in the lives of myself, my children, my parents—if they could see this. My mother was critical when I ran for the Senate. She expressed a little disappointment. I said, "Mom, how can that be?" She said, "Because I thought you would be running for President." In any event, my dad would not have

believed it, but he would have encouraged it nevertheless.

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for the patience sometimes that I exhaust on my friends, and I thank particularly my friend and colleague, BOB MENENDEZ, with whom I had the pleasure of serving while he was in leadership in the House, and especially since he has been here in the Senate, with the important responsibilities we have.

It is a good day, and I am glad to be back here to get on with the people's business. I thank you all for your patience and friendship, and particularly our majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRAVEL PROMOTION ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am very grateful we have moved forward on a very important bill for the country—the Travel Promotion Act. I commend and applaud Senator DORGAN for his good work on the legislation. It is extremely important. He was a real advocate, as he is on issues which he sinks his teeth into.

Travel and tourism generate \$1 trillion in the economy every year. Whether it is the State of Minnesota, Nevada—you can pick any of the States—tourism is the No. 1, 2, or 3 most important driving economic factor in the States. This year, tourism will create 40,000 new jobs. The bill will also cut the deficit by \$425 million over the next 10 years. That is significant. We would be taking the strategies that have made Las Vegas such a success and bringing them to our entire Nation's tourism industry.

Nevada's tourism has been hit hard by the slowing worldwide economy, and when tourism in Nevada hurts, the entire State suffers. Hard-working people have lost their jobs. The State's budget has taken a major hit. Because that budget is largely funded by tourism, funding for vital programs in our State is at risk.

Nevada is not alone. Tourism is one of the top industries in every State. That is why this bill is so important. It is an opportunity to not only give American tourism a boost, but it is one of the many ways we are working to create jobs and help our economy rebuild.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LABOR DAY

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, over the last few months, I have stood in the Chamber and read letters sent to me by Ohioans from all over my State, stories explaining how health insurance costs are threatening the economic stability of middle-class families. These stories reflect the many challenges facing our Nation's middle class and facing my State's workers.

The fight for health insurance reform is part of a larger effort to put our Nation on a new, progressive path that invests in our labor force, honors our industrial and manufacturing traditions, and helps rebuild our middle class.

Yesterday, I joined President Obama in Cincinnati at the largest Labor Day picnic in the country to honor the achievement and contribution of the American worker. Labor Day is an important American tradition that also recognizes the courage of generations of workers and activists who demanded a standard of living deserving of all Americans.

In Ohio, the tradition of Labor Day began in 1890, when Cleveland's first African-American lawyer and Ohio's first African-American State senator, John Patterson Green, introduced "Labor Day in Ohio" to celebrate the contribution of workers. The bill passed the general assembly on April 28, 1890, 4 years before Congress declared Labor Day a national holiday. It is easy to surmise that Labor Day began in Ohio. As the "father of Labor Day in Ohio," John Patterson Green, who befriended captains of industry, civil rights pioneers, and sitting Presidents alike, exemplifies how simple recognition can give powerful meaning to working men and women.

Yesterday, in Cincinnati, during the Nation's largest Labor Day picnic, the President spoke to thousands of workers gathered in support of policies that put American workers, and business, first. The President reminded us that:

Much of what we take for granted—the 40-hour work week, the minimum wage, health insurance, paid leave, pensions, Social Security, Medicare—all bear the union label. So even if you're not a union member, every American owes something to America's labor movement.

At Labor Day events across the State, workers and their families, friends, and neighbors gathered together, regardless of profession—electricians, communications workers, steelworkers, teachers, truckdrivers, and laborers—to celebrate all working men and women. That is what Labor Day is. The celebrations brought together the families of union brothers and sisters who fight for each other.

That is what the labor movement is about—to recognize and speak out for health care that works for workers. That is why this Labor Day is ever more meaningful.